

REMARKS

Claims 1, 12, and 17 have been amended to clarify the subject matter regarded as the invention. Claims 1-20 are pending.

The rejection of claims 17-20 under 35 USC 101 is respectfully traversed. The claims recite a “computer readable storage medium” with machine readable code embodied thereon. A computer readable storage medium with computer instructions embodied thereon is statutory where, as here, the functions recited are performed by a computer when the computer instructions are read from the recited computer readable storage medium and executed. As such, claims 17-20 are believed to recite statutory subject matter.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-20 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Banes in view of Angelo.

The rejection is respectfully traversed. With respect to independent claims 1, 12, and 17, Banes describes a removable “password reset disk” on which an encrypted copy of a password is stored. Banes [0010]-[0013]. If a user forgets his/her password, the user inserts the disk to reset (or set) the password to a user-specified value. Banes [0011], [0042]. Angelo describes a one-time password generated based on a “fail-safe counter” maintained both by a manufacturer and on the computer system with which the counter is associated. Angelo, col. 2, lines 1-19 and 53-67. Angelo describes the one-time password being provided to a user who has lost his/her password, who then uses the one-time password to access the computer and reset the password to a user-specified value. Angelo, col. 7, lines 38-47 & col. 9, lines 4-6. Providing a key or one-time password that enables a user to gain access to a computer system and then specify any password the user desires, as taught by Banes and Angelo, is not the same as providing a “backdoor key” that cause a key to be reset to a “default value” that “comprises a default password provided by a manufacturer of the computer program at a time prior to the backdoor key being generated and provided,” as recited in claims 1, 12, and 17 as amended. Resetting the key to such a “default value”, instead of granting access and the ability to change passwords directly from entry of a recovery key as taught by Banes and Angelo, adds a layer of security by requiring that the recipient of the “backdoor key” also have in his/her possession the original default value for the key. As such, claims 1, 12, and 17 are believed to be allowable.

Claims 2-11 depend from claim 1 and are believed to be allowable for the same reasons described above. Likewise, claims 13-16 depend from claim 12 and claims 18-20 depend from claim 17, and all are believed to be allowable for the same reasons described above.

The foregoing amendments are not to be taken as an admission of unpatentability of any of the claims prior to the amendments.

Reconsideration of the application and allowance of all claims are respectfully requested based on the preceding remarks. If at any time the Examiner believes that an interview would be helpful, please contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 2/26/08 _____

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